

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending. In an office action dated August 21, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 8 and 10; indicated that claims 2,3 and 5-7 would be allowable if written in an independent form; and allowed claims 11-20.

In the present response, to facilitate the allowance of this application, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elements of claim 2 (which was deemed allowable) and canceled claim 2. The dependency of claim 3 has been changed from 2 to 1. Claims 3-10 are now dependent upon amended claim 1.

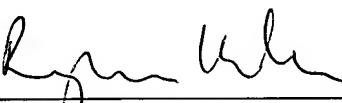
Claims 11-20 were allowed and are unchanged.

Conclusion

Based on the above amendments, Applicants believe that claims 1 and 3-20 are now in a condition for allowance and therefore respectfully request the Examiner to allow these claims.

This response is being filed within three months of the date of the Office Action and therefore it is believed no fee is due. If however, that is incorrect, any fee due may be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2442.

Respectfully submitted,
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